

HAMPTON BUDGET COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
January 14, 2014

Budget Committee Members Present

Eileen Latimer, Chairman  
Richard Reniere, Vice-Chairman  
Richard Nichols, Selectman Representative  
Robert Ladd, Hampton Beach Village District Representative  
Pat Collins  
Joe Grzybowski  
Timothy Citizen Jones  
Sunny Kravitz  
Stephen LaBranche  
Brian Lapham  
Mark McFarlin  
David Wood

Excused

Ginny Bridle  
Richard Desrosiers  
Sandra Nickerson

Chairman Latimer called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

The Committee made self-introductions.

Chairman Latimer said the Town Warrant Articles would be addressed at this meeting.

**Town of Hampton**

Chairman Latimer welcomed Fred Welch, Town Manager, and Mike Schwotzer, Finance Director.

Article 8 – Town of Hampton Operating Budget - \$26,047,282

**Moved** by Mr. LaBranche, seconded by Mr. Jones, to recommend to the Public Hearing the amount of \$26,047,282 for Town of Hampton Operating Budget.

**Vote:** 10 yes, 2 no (Lapham, Jones). Motion passed.

Articles 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 an 14 – Collective Bargaining Agreements

**Moved** by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. Lapham, to move Articles 9 through 14 without discussion.

Mr. McFarlin and Mr. Kravitz said they felt discussion should be held. Mr. Reniere said this committee cannot make any adjustments to these articles. Chairman Latimer said the committee cannot change these articles, but needs to vote on whether or not to recommend them. Mr. Ladd said discussion should be held at the deliberative session.

**Vote:** 6 yes, 5 no, 1 abstention. Motion passes.

**Moved** by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. Lapham, to recommend to the Public Hearing the Collective Bargaining Agreements (Articles 9 through 14).

**Vote:** 11 yes, 1 no (Kravitz). Motion passed.

Article 15 – Grist Mill Dam - \$400,000

Chairman Latimer welcomed Keith Noyes, Public Works Director.

Mr. Noyes said this article is for the decommissioning of the dam to comply with the NH Department of Environmental Services Letter of Deficiency regarding structure and safety. The Town would be subject to substantial fines if the dam is not either reconstructed or decommissioned. The Board of Selectmen prefer decommissioning because it is less costly. A grant is being applied for in connection with replacement of the High Street culvert.

Mr. Jones said he is very much in favor of this article. Mr. McFarlin said the issue has to be addressed.

**Moved** by Mr. LaBranche, seconded by Mr. Wood, to recommend to the Public Hearing the amount of \$400,000 for Grist Mill Dam.

**Vote:** 10 yes, 0 no, 2 abstentions (McFarland, Reniere). Motion passed.

Article 16 – High Street Culvert - \$175,000

Mr. Noyes said this is a continuation of the previous warrant article. In order to apply for the grant for the dam it is necessary to address this culvert. Mr. Noyes explained that receipt of the grant would decrease the cost dramatically.

**Moved** by Mr. LaBranche, seconded by Mr. Wood, to recommend to the Public Hearing the amount of \$175,000 for High Street Culvert.

Mr. LaBranche said he believes this is a very worthwhile project.

**Vote:** 10 yes, 0 no, 2 abstentions (McFarland, Reniere). Motion passed.

Article 17 – DPW Equipment Replacement - \$385,000

Mr. Noyes said it is important to have reliable equipment. It is a requirement to do street sweeping on a regular basis. Equipment replacement is scheduled and the department is doing a lot of preventive maintenance.

Mr. Lapham noted that DPW has a good sweeper now. Mr. Noyes said the new one would have more capacity and is designed more efficiently. At this time the trade-in value on the present one would be higher. Mr. Lapham said he was opposed to this article. Mr. Wood said he approved of the replacement plans of the DPW. Mr. Nichols said Mike Plouffe who has much expertise in this area supports this article.

**Moved** by Mr. LaBranche, seconded by Mr. Wood, to recommend to the Public Hearing the amount of \$385,000 for DPW Equipment Replacement.

**Vote:** 10 yes, 2 no (Jones, Lapham). Motion passed.

Article 18 – Road Improvement Capital Reserve Fund - \$300,000

**Moved** by Mr. LaBranche, seconded by Mr. Lapham, to recommend to the Public Hearing the amount of \$300,000 for Road Improvement Capital Reserve Fund.

Mr. Jones asked what this fund was dedicated to. Mr. Noyes said road maintenance. Mr. McFarlin asked if there is money in that fund at this time. Mr. Swotzer said there is approximately \$300,000 in the fund. If this article passes, there will be \$600,000. Mr. McFarlin asked if all of this money would be used. Mr. Noyes then explained upcoming work and said the money would be expended.

Chairman Latimer asked if the Exeter Road project would go to its own warrant article. Mr. Schwotzer said that will occur next year.

**Vote:** 12 yes, 0 no. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Latimer called for a break at 8:30 p.m.

The committee reconvened at 8:40 p.m.

Article 20 – Human Services Agencies - \$155,651

Mr. Welch said these agencies supplement the Town's Welfare Department.

Chairman Latimer said Cross Roads has been added back into the article. She asked Mr. Welch if he was satisfied that Hampton will receive services from them. Mr. Welch said there is no guarantee. It depends on the assignment facility. The dispatch is in Stafford County, not Rockingham.

Chairman Latimer said she will support this article. However, she has a problem in that this is taking any kind of control away from the Town. Mr. Nichols said this year should play out and it can be re-evaluated at that time. Mr. McFarlin said the centralization makes the system more effective. Mr. Reniere said after listening to the Cross Roads representative he feels confident that the citizens of Hampton are being provided for.

**Moved** by Mr. Reniere, seconded by Mr. Collins, to recommend to the Public Hearing the amount of \$155,651 for Human Services Agencies.

**Vote:** 12 yes, 0 no. Motion passed unanimously.

Article 21 – Police Forfeiture Fund - \$90,000

Mr. Welch said this is a very effective program which mostly deals with drug problems. It is very important that these funds are available to control drug problems in the community. Mr. Schwotzer said this money comes from the State. No money from the taxpayers goes into this fund.

**Moved** by Mr. Lapham, seconded by Mr. Jones, to recommend to the Public Hearing the amount of \$90,000 for Police Forfeiture Fund.

**Vote:** 12 yes, 0 no. Motion passed unanimously.

Article 22 – Recreation Infrastructure Fund - \$90,000

Dyana Martin, Recreation Director, said this money comes out of their special revenue fund. This is to replace signs at Tuck Field, Eaton Park and Kids Kingdom. Money will also go to replace lights at Eaton Park. New lighting will save on energy. Chairman Latimer said this article will have no tax impact as it comes from parking lot revenue.

**Moved** by Mr. Collins, seconded by Mr. McFarlin to recommend to the Public Hearing the amount of \$90,000 for Recreation Infrastructure Fund.

**Vote:** 10 yes, 1 no (Lapham), 1 abstention (Ladd). Motion passed.

Article 23 - Gristmill Restoration - \$28,678

Mr. Welch said this work has been delayed because the dam must be addressed first.

**Moved** by Mr. LaBranche, seconded by Mr. Collins, to recommend to the Public Hearing \$28,678 for Gristmill Restoration.

Mr. McFarlin noted that this is money already approved by the voters two years ago.

**Vote:** 12 yes, 0 no. Motion passed unanimously.

Article 24 – Cemetery Burial Trust Fund - \$10,500

Mr. Welch said this takes monies collected from the sale of cemetery lots and put in the trust fund for maintenance of cemeteries.

**Moved** by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. LaBranche, to recommend to the Public Hearing the amount of \$10,500 for Cemetery Burial Trust Fund.

**Vote:** 12 yes, 0 no. Motion passed unanimously.

Article 25 – Conservation Commission Land Acquisition Fund - \$10,000

Jay Diener, Chairman of the Conservation Commission, said the Commission wants to build up their land acquisition fund. The fund has been depleted during past years and needs to be gradually built up.

Mr. Jones said money is being put into a fund controlled by an appointed group and can be used for any purpose. Mr. Welch said the only authority they have to expend is in accordance with Town Meeting. Mr. Jones said his opinion was that this is in conflict with state statute.

**Moved** by Mr. Wood, seconded by Mr. Reniere, to recommend to the Public Hearing the amount of \$10,000 for Conservation Commission Land Acquisition.

**Vote:** 11 yes, 1 no (Jones). Motion passed.

Article 37 – Hampton Christmas Parade - \$3,000

**Moved** by Mr. LaBranche, seconded by Mr. Lapham, to recommend to the Public Hearing the amount of \$3,000 for Hampton Christmas Parade.

Mr. Jones said he would like to see the books for Experience Hampton. Mr. Welch said that cannot be done because it is a private enterprise.

**Vote:** 11 yes, 1 no (Jones). Motion passed.

Article 38 – Child & Family Services - \$1,000 (in addition to \$5,000 usually requested)

Ruth Zachs said they provide a large number of services to families around the seacoast and have increased services to Hampton residents. Their organization goes to the towns to help fund their family counseling service.

**Moved** by Mr. LaBranche, seconded by Mr. Reniere, to recommend to the Public Hearing the amount of \$1,000 (in addition to \$5,000 usually requested) for Child & Family Services.

It was noted that the amount will be changed to \$6,000 at the deliberative session.

**Vote:** 12 yes, 0 no. Motion passed unanimously.

Article 39 – Fisher House Foundation - \$25,000

Richard Ballou said the Fisher House program is a private-public partnership that supports America's military families by building and donating "comfort homes" on the grounds of major military and VA medical centers. These homes enable family members to be close to loved ones during hospitalizations for disease or injury. The Veterans Administration decides where the buildings will be located.

Mr. Jones said he definitely supports this organization. However, he is aware that this organization held a "penguin plunge" type of event in New Jersey and made a lot of money. Mr. Jones said this type of event is a better way to raise funds and doesn't burden the taxpayers.

Mr. LaBranche said he was not comfortable with this because the list of charities could be endless.

**Vote:** 6 yes, 4 no (Jones, Kravitz, LaBranche, Lapham), 2 abstentions (Reniere, Wood). Motion passes.

Article 40 – Seacoast Family Promise - \$7,000

Patty Frumatter, Executive Director, said this organization runs a dry shelter in Stratham. Their rate of stabilization is 86.7%.

**Moved** by Mr. McFarlin, seconded by Mr. LaBranche, to recommend to the Public Hearing the amount of \$7,000 for Seacoast Family Promise.

**Vote:** 2 yes, 3 no (Gryzbowski, Kravitz, Lapham), 7 abstentions (Collins, Jones, LaBranche, Latimer, Nichols, Reniere, Wood). Motion failed. Article 40 is NOT recommended.

Article 36 – Holman Lane Sewer - \$80,000

Bill Buddenhagen, a resident on Holman Lane, said this was for installing a gravity sewer system for the use of six homes on Holman Lane.

Mr. Nichols said he looked at this article from a cost standpoint. They have a functioning system at this time. Mr. Jones said this will benefit only six homes in the town.

**Moved** by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. LaBranche, to NOT recommend Article 36 – Holman Lane Sewer.

**Vote:** 10 yes, 1 no (Latimer), 1 abstention (LaBranche). Motion passed.

Article 41 - Ring Swamp Cemetery - \$4,950

**Moved** by Mr. LaBranche, seconded by Mr. Lapham, to recommend to the Public Hearing the amount of \$4,950 for Ring Swamp Cemetery.

**Vote:** 5 yes, 7 no (Gryzbowski, Jones, Kravitz, LaBranche, Ladd, Lapham, Latimer). Motion failed. Article 41 is NOT recommended.

Article 44 – Restroom at Place Cove - \$49,500

Larry Sack spoke in favor of this article. He said the Recreation Director has offered her help.

Mr. McFarlin said he would like this to come forward next year with the money coming from the parking lot revenue.

**Moved** by Mr. Lapham, seconded by Mr. Jones, to NOT recommend Article 44.

**Vote:** 12 yes, 0 no. Motion passed unanimously.

Article 46 - Deacon Tuck Grist Mill - \$50,000

**Moved** by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. Lapham, to NOT recommend Article 46.

**Vote:** 11 yes, 0 no, 1 abstention (McFarlin). Motion passed.

Article 47 – Purchase of Vehicle for Hampton Cemeteries - \$45,000

**Moved** by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. LaBranche, to NOT recommend Article 47.

**Vote:** 11 yes, 1 no (Gryzbowski). Motion passed.

Article 48 – New Greenhead Flytraps - \$3,000

**Moved** by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. LaBranche, to recommend the amount of \$3,000 for New Greenhead Flytraps.

**Vote:** 5 yes, 3 no (Gryzbowski, Jones, Kravitz), 4 abstentions (Collins, Lapham, Nichols, Lapham). Motion passed.

Article 49 – Senior Center - \$200,000

**Moved** by Mr. LaBranche, seconded by Mr. Jones to NOT recommend Article 49.

**Vote:** 12 yes, 0 no. Motion passed unanimously.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Rice  
Secretary